



EARLY PEOPLES

Aboriginal Peoples of Australia

Aboriginal Peoples of Australia explores the history, social life, and customs of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia. Ancestors of today's Aboriginal peoples arrived in Australia more than 50,000 years ago.

What did you learn?

QUESTIONS

1. A dilly bag can be made from ...
 - a. Bark
 - b. Grass
 - c. Leaves
 - d. All of the above
2. Aboriginal peoples in Arnhem Land in northern Australia painted their skin with patterns of ...
 - a. Animals
 - b. Grass
 - c. Stone
 - d. Bone
3. To treat sore throats and coughs, healers made a treatment by soaking acacia bark in ...
 - a. Juice
 - b. Water
 - c. Milk
 - d. Syrup
4. The first Europeans to reach Australia were ...
 - a. Dutch
 - b. Danish
 - c. English
 - d. German
5. What is a *billabong*?
6. What is the name of the curved, Aboriginal throwing stick used for hunting birds?

TRUE OR FALSE?

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|---|--|
| _____ 1. Aboriginal peoples often built long-lasting settlements. | _____ 4. Aboriginal peoples had a strict gendered division of labor. |
| _____ 2. Aboriginal peoples probably arrived in northwestern Australia. | _____ 5. Only girls had to take part in special ceremonies before they could officially become adults. |
| _____ 3. Aboriginal peoples believed that a spirit called the Blue Snake controlled rain. | _____ 6. The loss of their lands made it impossible for Aboriginal peoples to continue their traditional ways of life. |

ANSWERS

- 1. c. All of the above.** According to section "Glossary" on page 60, we know that a dilly bag is "A woven bag made from bark, grass, or leaves." So, the correct answer is C.
- 2. d. Bone.** According to section "Body Painting and Dress" on page 32, we know that "Aboriginal peoples in Arnhem Land in northern Australia painted their skin with bone patterns." So, the correct answer is D.
- 3. b. Water.** According to section "Health and Medicines" on page 42, we know that "Aboriginal healers soaked acacia bark in water to make a treatment for sore throats and coughs." So, the correct answer is B.
- 4. a. Dutch.** According to section "The Coming of the Europeans" on page 54, we know that "The Dutch were the first Europeans to reach Australia." So, the correct answer is A.
- 5.** According to page 35, a *billabong* is a pool or small lake left behind when a river changes course.
- 6.** According to page 35, the Aboriginal throwing stick is called a *boomerang*.

TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. False.** According to section "Who Were the Aborigines?" on page 4, we know that "Aboriginal peoples rarely built permanent homes because they usually did not stay in one place for very long." So, the correct answer is False.
- 2. True.** According to section "Aborigines Settle Australia" on page 12, we know that "Archaeologists believe that Aboriginal peoples probably arrived in northwestern Australia." So, the correct answer is True.
- 3. False.** According to section "Magic and Sorcery" on page 25, we know that "Aboriginal peoples believed that a spirit called the Rainbow Snake controlled rain." So, the correct answer is False.
- 4. True.** According to section "Hunting" on page 36, we know that "Aboriginal peoples had a strict division of labor. Hunting and fishing were men's work. Gathering shellfish and plants for food was women's work." So, the correct answer is True.
- 5. False.** According to section "Growing Up" on page 41, we know that "Both boys and girls had to take part in special ceremonies before they could officially become adults. The ceremonies took place when children were between the ages of 10 and 14." So, the correct answer is False.
- 6. True.** According to section "The Aborigines Today" on page 58, we know that "The loss of their lands made it impossible for Aboriginal peoples to continue their traditional ways of life." So, the correct answer is True.